



8

A BIRTHDAY LETTER

How do you feel when you receive a gift? You all feel happy and loved when you receive a gift from your parents on your birthday. But what if the parents are in another city and send a letter instead? A letter of blessing is more valuable than a gift.



OBJECTIVES

After completing this lesson you will be able to:

- recognise the value of a letter as a powerful means of communication;
- analyse the contributions of our leaders;
- infer the qualities exhibited by these leaders;
- negotiate a difficult situation and communicate effectively;
- identify and write imperative sentences;
- construct 'Wh' questions, and
- write an informal letter.



8.1 LET US READ THE TEXT

In 1930, India was not free. Many of our leaders were imprisoned by the British. While in Naini Prison, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru wrote this letter to his daughter, Indira on her 13th birthday. Let's find out what he wrote to her.



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A Birthday Letter



Central Prison, Naini
October 26, 1930

My dear Indira,

On your birthday you have been in the habit of receiving presents and good wishes. Good wishes you will still have in full measure, but what present can I send you from Naini Prison? My presents cannot be very material or solid. They can be of the mind and spirit, Things that even the high walls of prison cannot stop.

You know sweetheart, how I dislike sermonising and doling out good advice I have always thought that the best way to find out what is right and what is not right, what should be done and what should not be done, is not by giving a sermon, but by talking and discussing, and out of discussion sometimes a little bit of truth comes out. I have liked my talks with you and we have discussed many things, but the world is wide and beyond our world lie other wonderful and mysterious worldsnone of us need ever be bored or imaginethat we have learned everything worth learning and become very wise.

..... But what am I to do then? A letter can hardly take the place of a talk; at best it is a one-sided affair Imagine that I have made a suggestion to you for you to think over, as if we really were having a talk.

In history we read of great periods in the life of nations, of great men and women ... do you remember how fascinated you were when you first read the story of Jeanne d' Arc, and how your ambition was to be something like her? Ordinary men and women are not usually heroic. They think of their bread and butter, of their children, of their household worries and the like. But a time comes when a whole people become interested in a great cause. Then history helps even simple, ordinary men and women to become heroes. Great leaders have something in them which inspires a whole people and makes them do great deeds In India a great leader, full of love for all who suffer and eager to help them, has inspired our people to great actions and noble sacrifice. He has helped to make the starving, the poor and the oppressed free and happy.

Bapuji is in prison, but the magic of his message has stolen the hearts of India's millions. Men and women, and even little children, come out of their little shells and become India's soldiers of freedom. In India today we are making history, and you and I are fortunate to see this happening before our eyes and to take some part ourselves in this great drama.

What part shall we play in it?

full measure: plenty

sermonising: giving a lecture

doling out: giving

mysterious: strange

trust: faith

unworthy: not benefitting

fascinated: attracted

ambition: aim

cause: reason

eager: enthusiastic

starving: hungry

oppressed: kept down

fortunate: lucky

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If we are to be India's soldiers we have to respect India's honour, and that honour is a sacred trust. It is no easy matter to decide what is right and what is not. One little test I shall ask you to apply whenever you are in doubt. Never do anything in secret or anything that you would wish to hide. For the desire to hide anything means that you are afraid, and fear is a bad thing and unworthy of you. Be brave, and all the rest follows. You know that in our great Freedom Movement, under Bapuji's leadership, there is no room for secrecy or hiding. We have nothing to hide. We are not afraid of what we do or what we say. We work in the sun and in the light. Even so in our private lives let us make friends with the sun and work in the light and do nothing secretly. and if you do so, my dear you will grow up a child of the light, unafraid and serene and unruffled, whatever may happen.

I have written a very long letter to you. And yet there is so much I would like to tell you. How can a letter contain it? Good-bye, little one, and may you grow up into a brave soldier in India's service.

With all my love and good wishes.

Your loving father,
Jawaharlal Nehru

8.2 LET US UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

8.2.1 PART 1

In 1930, having a talk.

Do you have friends and family who live far away from where you do? How do you stay in touch with them? How does it feel when you receive letters from them? In this section Pt. Nehru, who is imprisoned in Naini Jail by the British, sends a letter as a gift to his daughter Indira on her birthday. Let's read on to find out what he writes.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.1

1. In which jail was Pt. Nehru imprisoned by the British?
2. Why was Pt. Nehru not able to send a gift to his daughter on her birthday?
3. What did Pt. Nehru not like to do?
4. Why did Pt. Nehru dislike lecturing?
5. What suggestions did he give to Indira in his letter to her?



Notes

sacred: holy

serene: calm

unruffled: unmoved



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6. Imagine that you want to discuss something very important with your friend. Would you write a letter, email, call up (phone) or discuss it face to face? Give reasons for your answer.



LET US DO 8.1

Meet one person above the age of eighty years and ask him/her to relate his/her experience or memories during the freedom struggle. Describe his/her experience in about 50-60 words.



LET US LEARN NEW WORDS 8.1

Homophones

Look at the pairs of words given below. Read them aloud.

Notice that they sound similar but are spelt differently.

Break	cheque	dear	fair	heal	right
Brake	check	deer	fare	heel	write

Exercise 1

Write words to complete the similar-sounding pairs.

- lose _____
- peace _____
- week _____
- waste _____
- cast _____

Exercise 2

Choose the correct word from each pair in Exercise 1 and complete the following sentences.

- Do not _____ your time.
 - This pair of jeans is tight at the _____.
- The people were eager to _____ their vote.
 - We should not discriminate on the basis of _____.

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3. a. Gandhiji believed in _____ and non-violence.
b. Give me a _____ of cake.
4. a. Please don't _____ my book.
b. Sameer always wears a _____ shirt.
5. a. A _____ has seven days.
b. Rani is _____ in English.

8.2.2 PART 2

In history wein this great drama.

Have you heard of the contribution of the freedom fighters to India's independence? Whose names come to your mind when we speak of the leaders of India's struggle for independence? Is Gandhiji one of them? In this section Pt. Nehru writes to his daughter to tell her how Bapuji motivated the common man to become a part of the struggle for freedom. He speaks about how common men and women also become heroes when they fight for a cause.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.2

1. Which two factors make ordinary men heroes?
2. Who according to Nehru has inspired millions of people to fight for freedom?
3. What does the phrase 'great drama' refer to?
4. Who inspires you the most in your life? What are the qualities that he/ she has that you admire the most? Why do you admire this person?



LET US DO 8.2

We all know that India had to struggle very hard in its fight for independence. Many great leaders made a lot of sacrifices. Quite a number of movements were carried out during that time.

Given below is a list of some movements for various causes. Tick the ones that are related to India's freedom struggle.

Namak Andolan

Swadeshi Movement

Chipko Movement

Non-cooperation Movement



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Civil Disobedience Movement
Jail Bhara Movement
Quit India Movement

Narmada Bachao Andolan
Satyagraha



DO YOU KNOW

A post-independence hero

Captain Saurabh Kalia

- Capt. Saurabh Kalia of 4 Jat Regiment of the Indian Army sacrificed his life for the nation.
- He was the first officer to detect and inform about Pakistani intrusion in Kargil area while patrolling in early May, 1999.
- Capt. Kalia and his patrol were captured alive on 15th May, 1999 from the Indian side of the Line of Control (LOC).
- His parents, army and nation are proud of his patriotism, determination and valour.



8.2.3 PART 3

What part shall we play in it?.....Your loving father, (Jawaharlal Nehru)

How do you decide what is right and what is wrong? While doing something, do you feel that there are times when you need to hide from your elders? Does the fear of being caught tell you that you are wrong? In this section, Pt. Nehru tells Indira about the importance of understanding and doing what is right just like Gandhiji. He tells her that fighting for freedom was the right thing to do and that she should not fear being a part of the movement.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.3

1. What soldier-like qualities does Pt. Nehru want Indira to develop?
2. Why do people hide things?
3. Under whose leadership did the freedom movement take place?
4. During the freedom movement, what did Gandhiji focus on? Answer with reference to the text.

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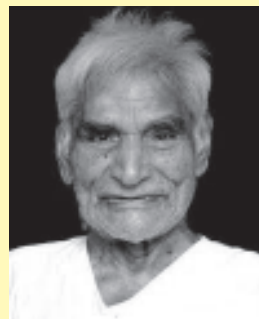


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5. Under Gandhiji's leadership India became free of oppression. But oppression continues in different ways even after independence. For example, you must have heard or seen children below 14 years of age being employed in hazardous (risky/ unsafe) jobs like making crackers, hand-knotted carpets, etc? The government has introduced laws to protect the rights of children. What do you feel about it? Suggest three things that you can do to protect the rights of these children?



DO YOU KNOW



A post-independence Gandhian leader

Murlidhar Devidas Amte, popularly known as
Baba Amte

(December 26, 1914 – February 9, 2008)

- was a Gandhian, a social worker and a social activist
- served as a defense lawyer for leaders of the Indian freedom movement
- worked for the rehabilitation and empowerment of people suffering from leprosy
- devoted his life to many other social causes such as generating public awareness of the importance of ecological balance, wildlife preservation, and the Narmada Bachao Andolan
- was awarded the Padma Shree in 1997, Padma Vibhushan in 1986 and Gandhi Peace Prize in 1999.
- was awarded the Dr. Ambedkar International Award for Social Change, 1999, 'in recognition of outstanding work done in pursuing the cause of the exploited and the underprivileged, reconciling differences among conflicting social groups and contributing significantly to social change'.



LET US DO 8.3

In the above **DO YOU KNOW** box you read about **Baba Amte**. Using the given information write a paragraph about him.



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8.3 LET US LEARN GRAMMAR

A. Constructing 'Wh' Questions

In this lesson every section contains a question beginning with a 'Wh' question word.

What present can I send you from Naini Prison?

What am I to do then?

What part shall we play in it?

There are nine 'Wh' question words.

when	what	where	why	who
whom	whose	which	how	

Exercise 1

- a. Complete the following conversation between three people by supplying suitable 'wh' question words from the above given list.

Abhimanyu: _____ are you going Vivek?

Vivek : I am going to the doctor.

Anirudh : _____ are you going to see a doctor?

Vivek : I've got a terrible stomach ache.

Abhimanyu : _____ doctor will you go to, Dr. Solanki or Dr. Gupta?

Anirudh : You should go to Dr. Solanki.

Abhimanyu: But _____ are his timings to see the patients and _____ will you go there Vivek?

Vivek : I don't know the timings. I will call up and check. I think I will take a cab.

- b. Read the above conversation and write another conversation with 'Wh' words.



Exercise 2

Frame at least 6 ‘Wh’ questions from the table given below using one word/phrase from each column

Question word	Helping verb	Subject	Verb	Complement
What	does	you	like	to drink?
When	did	he	go	me?
Why	do	you	disturb	shopping?
Where	will	she	meet	to select?
How	did	I	spend	your holidays?
Whom	do	they	want	Anita?

B. Imperative Sentences

Read the sentences given below.

A	B
Obey your elders.	Don't tell a lie.
Give Devraj his book.	Never fear.
Always go to school.	Don't be afraid of the dark.
Put off the lights.	

The sentences given above are used for giving instructions. They are **Imperative Sentences**. In an imperative sentence, the verb comes before the subject. The sentences in Column B begin with ‘Don't’ or ‘Never’ and are called **Negative Imperative Sentences**.

Exercise 1

Match the verbs in Column A with the words in Column B to make Imperative Sentences. Write them in the spaces given below:

A	B
Eat	elders
Love	every day
Respect	healthy food
Follow	regularly
Study	your neighbours and friends
Exercise	traffic rules



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1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Exercise 2

Look at the sentences given below. Rewrite the sentences beginning with a verb to make them imperative sentences.

1. One should never hide the truth.
2. You shouldn't stay out late.
3. One should not play with fire.
4. You should keep your classroom clean.
5. You should not go barefoot outside.
6. One shouldn't eat spicy food.
7. One should go to school regularly.
8. You should read good storybooks.

**8.4 LET US WRITE****Informal Letter**

Pandit Nehru's letter to Indira was an informal letter. Let's read another example of an informal letter.

This is a letter written by Hitendra, a Major in the Indian army, to his son Udyan. In the letter Major Hitendra tells his son about his experiences and life in Kargil where he is posted.

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Jan. 25, 2011

My dear Udyan,

Hope everything is fine at home. I have just reached Kargil on my new posting. At present it is very cold and the temperature is - 20°C. We try to keep ourselves warm by lighting fires and eating a lot of dry fruits. The area is very sensitive because militants can cross over easily. Although the situation is well under control we have to be vigilant all the time. Infiltrators enter our country with ease in the guise of shepherds because of the dense trees and frozen rivers. Every movement has to be monitored with alertness.

Take care of yourself and look after your grandparents and mother and keep writing to me.

Yours lovingly
Dad

Exercise

Now imagine you are Udyan. Write a letter to your father giving him news about yourself and your family, and about what is happening in your life. Use the format given below

Date _____

Dear _____,



WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

In this lesson, Pt. Nehru sends Indira a letter as a birthday present since he was unable to send her a gift as he was in jail. Though presents are appreciated; letters can also be equally cherished as a gift. We have learnt that it is important to do things without fear and recognise right from wrong. When faced with problems we can resolve them by discussing them with near and dear ones. Letters can also be used to convey our feelings when we cannot discuss things face to face. You have also learnt to value the contribution of our



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leaders to the fight for freedom. We have also learnt the value of the qualities exhibited by these leaders.

**TERMINAL QUESTIONS**

1. According to Pt. Nehru, how does a great leader help?
2. What does Pt. Nehru mean by 'make friends with the sun and work in the light'? Answer in about 50 words.
3. Imagine that you had a discussion with your parents about your career plans. Write in about 50 words what was discussed, what advice your parents gave you and how you felt.

**ANSWERS****8.2.1 PART 1****INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.1**

1. Pt. Nehru was imprisoned in Naini Jail.
2. Pt. Nehru was not able to send a gift to Indira on her birthday because he was imprisoned by the British in Naini Prison.
3. Pt. Nehru did not like to sermonise and give advice.
4. Individual response
Suggested response:
 - one-sided affair that lacks opportunity to talk and discuss.
 - people get bored
 - might not like sermons
5. Nehru suggested that Indira should talk and discuss with others what is right and what is wrong before taking a decision.
6. Individual response. Accept all responses.

LET US LEARN NEW WORDS 8.1**Exercise 1**

- | | | |
|----------|----------|---------|
| 1. loose | 2. piece | 3. weak |
| 4. waist | 5. caste | |

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Exercise 2

1. a. waste b. waist 2. a. cast b. caste 3. a. peace b. piece
4. a. lose b. loose 5. a. week b. weak

8.2.2 PART 2

INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.2

1. The two factors that make ordinary men heroes are:
 - a. full faith in a great cause
 - b. love and respect for the nation
2. Mahatma Gandhi inspired millions of people to fight for freedom from the British.
3. The phrase 'great drama' refers to men, women and little children coming out in great numbers to take part in the fight for freedom.
4. Individual responses. Accept all responses.

Probable response: very loving, smart, successful, brave, very helpful, committed to his task of nation building.

8.2.3 PART 3

INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.3

1. Nehru wants Indira to develop qualities like respect for her country's honour, trust, patriotism, the ability to identify right from wrong and the belief in fighting for her country's freedom.
2. People hide things because they are afraid of what they are doing as they are not sure whether it is wrong or right, and they fear the consequences.
3. The freedom movement took place under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi
4. Gandhiji focused on truth, courage, fearlessness, openness, hard work, peace, straight forwardness and non-violence.
5. Individual response.

Suggested responses:

- Don't employ children below the age of fourteen at my home or workplace
- Report the cases of child labour to authorities
- Speak and convince such children to go to school

8.3 LET US LEARN GRAMMAR

A. Exercise 1

- a. Where Why Which what how
- b. Individual responses



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Exercise 2

Probable responses

1. What does she like to drink?
2. When did he go for shopping?
3. Why do you disturb me?
4. Where will you meet Anita?
5. How did you spend your holidays?
6. Whom do they want to select?

B. Exercise 1

1. Eat healthy food.
2. Love your neighbours and friends.
3. Respect elders.
4. Follow traffic rules.
5. Study every day/regularly.
6. Exercise regularly/every day.

Exercise 2

1. Never hide the truth.
2. Don't stay out late.
3. Don't play with fire.
4. Keep your classroom clean.
5. Never walk barefoot.
6. Don't eat spicy food.
7. Go to school regularly.
8. Read good storybooks.

TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. According to Nehru great people inspire others to great actions and noble sacrifices. They lead by example. They make the oppressed feel happy and free.
2. Individual responses. Accept all responses.

Suggested responses:

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- work without fear
 - be open, not secretive
 - hide nothing
 - be peaceful
 - be straightforward
 - be truthful
3. Individual responses. Accept all responses



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